

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

It is an object of the present invention to provide an anti-theft apparatus which can prevent a vehicle from being stolen or improperly utilized when the registered user is not in the vicinity of the vehicle under the condition that its engine is in an idling state.

5 The immobilizer includes: user identification data storing means **26** having the user identification data stored therein, the user identification data being indicative of a registered user having permission to utilize the vehicle; identifying means **27** for judging whether or not the person is identical to the registered user on the basis of the comparison between the user identification data received from the identification card **10** and the user identification
10 data stored in the user identification data storing means **26**; driving state detecting means **28** for detecting whether the vehicle is in a traveling state, or in a stopped state; and locking and unlocking means **24** for controlling a gear shifter provided in the vehicle on the basis of the judgment of the identifying means **27**, the locking and unlocking means **24** being adapted to assume an unlocking state to unlock the gear shifter to allow the gear shifter to be
15 shifted from a neutral state or a parking state when the judgment is made that the person is identified as the unregistered user under the condition that the vehicle is in the stopped state.